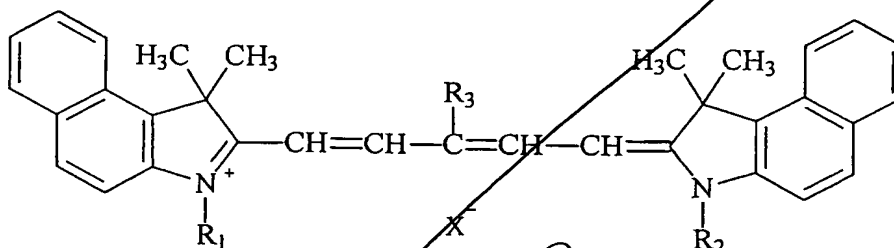


CLAIMS

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1. A cyanine dye represented by Formula 1:

Formula 1:



where in Formula 1, R_1 denotes a methyl or ethyl group; R_2 differs from R_1 and denotes a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group; R_3 is hydrogen atom or a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogens and lower-alkyl groups; X^- denotes fluorine or a metallic element of the 15 group in the periodic law table.

2. The cyanine dye of claim 1, wherein said X^- is a hexafluoro phosphoric acid ion or a hexafluoro antimononic acid ion.

3. The cyanine dye of claim 1 or 2, which substantially absorbs a visible light at a wavelength of around 780 nm.

4. The cyanine dye of claim 1, 2 or 3, which has a solubility of over 12 mg/ml at 20°C in 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoro-1-propanol.

5. A light absorbent comprising any one of the cyanine dyes of claims 1 to 4.

6. The light absorbent of claim 5, which is sensitive to a laser beam with a wavelength of around 780 nm when in a thin layer form.

7. An optical recording medium comprising any one of

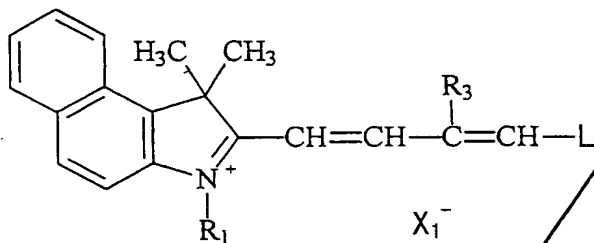
the cyanine dyes of claims 1 to 4.

8. The optical recording medium of claim 7, which comprises any one of the cyanine dyes of claims 1 to 4 and an appropriate light resistant improver.

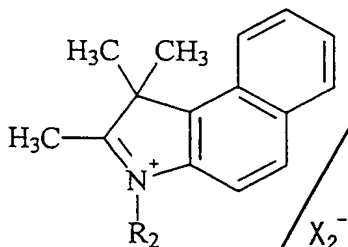
9. The optical recording medium of claim 7 or 8, which uses a laser beam with a wavelength of around 780 nm as a writing light.

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B9 10. A process for producing any one of the cyanine dyes of claims 1 to 4, which comprises a step of reacting a compound represented by Formula 2, having R_1 and R_3 as defined in Formula 1, with a compound represented by Formula 3 having R_2 as defined in Formula 1:

Formula 2:



Formula 3:

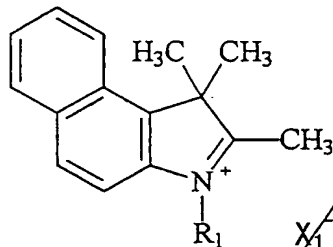


where in Formulae 2 and 3, X_1^- and X_2^- denote appropriate counter ions, and L denotes an appropriate leaving group.

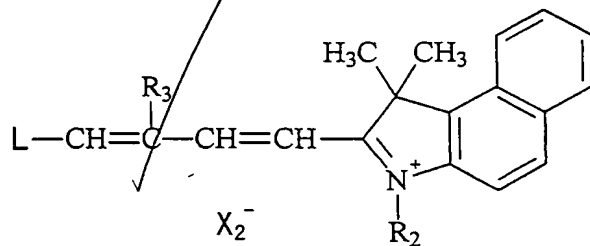
11. The process for producing any one of the cyanine

dyes of claims 1 to 4, which comprises a step of reacting a compound represented by Formula 4, having R_1 as defined in Formula 1, with a compound represented by Formula 5 having R_2 and R_3 as defined in Formula 1:

5 Formula 4:



Formula 5:



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